



February 10, 2025

Hawai'i House of Representatives
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Via Electronic Correspondence

RE: Letter in Support of House Bill 553

Dear Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

Aimed Alliance is a not-for-profit health policy organization that seeks to protect and enhance the rights of healthcare consumers and providers. We are writing to express our support for House Bill 553, which would require health plans to cover biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment, management, and ongoing monitoring of diseases. Expanding coverage for biomarker testing will help advance medical diagnostics and personalized treatment, ensuring that individuals receive the most effective care.

Biomarker testing is a valuable tool used by healthcare practitioners to gather individualized patient data, enabling the tailored prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases.¹ By analyzing biological specimens, like tissue and blood, biomarker testing identifies key indicators like genetic anomalies and molecular markers.² Ensuring coverage for biomarker testing is essential to improving accessibility to this effective diagnostic tool, ultimately maximizing therapeutic benefits and enhancing patient outcomes.³

While biomarker testing has made significant strides in oncology, its benefits extend beyond cancer care. A growing body of evidence supports its clinical utility in a wide range of diseases, including preeclampsia,⁴ cardiovascular diseases,⁵ diabetes,⁶ neurodegenerative disorders,⁷ and

¹ Ali Bodaghi et al., *Biomarkers: Promising and valuable tools towards diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of Covid-19 and other diseases*, 9 *HELYION* e13323 (2023).

² Biomarker Testing, *Oncology Nursing Society*, <https://www.ons.org/genomics-taxonomy/biomarker-testing>

³ Biomarker Tests and Cancer Treatment, *American Cancer Society*, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/diagnosis-staging/tests/biomarker-tests.html>.

⁴ Thermo Fisher, *Scientific Announces FDA Clearance of Breakthrough Immunoassays to Aid in the Risk Assessment of Preeclampsia*, *Buisnesswire* (2023), <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230519005071/en/Thermo-Fisher-Scientific-Announces-FDA-Clearance-of-Breakthrough-Immunoassays-to-Aid-in-the-Risk-Assessment-of-Preeclampsia>.

⁵ Crystal Ghantous et al., *Advances in Cardiovascular Biomarker Discovery*, 8 *BIOMEDICINES* 552 (2020), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7759775/>

⁶ Brenda Dorcely et al., *Novel biomarkers for prediabetes, diabetes, and associated complications*, 10 *DIABETES METABOLIC SYNDROME AND OBESITY* 345–61 (2017), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5565252/>

⁷ Daniel Alcolea et al., *Blood Biomarkers in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Implications for the Clinical Neurologist*, 101 *NEUROLOGY* (2023),

<https://n.neurology.org/content/101/4/172#:~:text=The%20most%20rigorously%20studied%20blood,detect%20AD%20in%20older%20adults.>



autoimmune diseases.⁸ For example, the FDA recently approved a biomarker test for preeclampsia, enabling earlier identification of high-risk pregnancies and improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes.⁹ Expanded access to biomarker testing will lead to improved patient outcomes and increased innovation across medical specialties.

In conclusion, we urge for the swift passage of H.B. 553, which would require health plans to cover biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment, management, and ongoing monitoring of diseases. We strongly encourage legislative action to make this life-saving tool more accessible to all.

Sincerely,

Olivia Backhaus
Staff Attorney

⁸ Fenghe Zhang et al., Biomarkers in autoimmune diseases of the central nervous system, 114 *Frontiers in Immunology* (2023), <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1111719/full#:~:text=They%20are%20easy%20to%20quantify,of%20disability%20in%20clinical%20practice>.

⁹ Thermo Fisher Scientific Announces FDA Clearance of Breakthrough Immunoassays to Aid in the Risk Assessment of Preeclampsia, *Buisnesswire*.